action accordingly. On the basis of the preliminary investigation, the Food Corporation of India has placed under suspension one District Manager and six Assistant Managers.

Capacity of FCI Godowns in Gujarat

484. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAIPATEL:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation and present capacity of the FCI godowns in the State of Gujarat; and

(b) the number of offices and godowns proposed to be opened in the State during the current and next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) The monthly allocation of foodgrains under TPDS for Gujarat State is 67.5 thousand tonnes. As on 31.5.1997, the Food Corporation of India was having storage capacity of 9.82 lakh tonnes.

(b) At present, there is no proposal with the Government to set up new offices. There is adequate storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में अनाज की भारी कमी

485. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:**
श्री राजनाथ सिंह:
श्री जयन्त कुमार मल्होत्रा:

क्या **खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि पिछले चार महीनों से उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में अनाज की भारी कमी हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री की उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों की यात्रा के दौरान आश्वासन दिया गया था कि इन क्षेत्रों के लिए अनाज की विशेष व्यवस्था की जाएगी ताकि किसी भी प्रकार की कमी न हो; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इन क्षेत्रों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में अनाज उपलब्ध कराने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं और अनाज की सुविधा उपलब्ध कब तक करा दी जाएगी?

खाद्य तथा उपभोक्ता मामलों के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह): (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेश सहित सभी राज्यों को खाद्यान्नों का मासिक आवंटन उस राज्य के लिए समग्र रूप से किया जाता है और आगे विभिन्न क्षेत्रों/जिलों के बीच उप आवंटन राज्य सरकार द्वारा किया जाता है। जून, 1997 से चावल और गेहूं का आवंटन लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के फार्मूले पर किया जाता है और पहली जून, 1997 से सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली समाप्त हो गई है। लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अधीन उत्तर प्रदेश को किया गया 15.37 लाख टन प्रति वर्ष का आवंटन 1996-97 में किए गए 12.50 लाख टन उठान से लगभग 3 लाख टन अधिक है।

राज्य सरकार द्वारा किए गए उप आवंटनों के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी जिलों के लिए खाद्यान्नों की पर्याप्त उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम सभी प्रयास कर रहा है। मार्च, 1997 से जून, 1997 तक की अवधि के दौरान केवल अल्मोड़ा जिले में खाद्यान्नों के पर्याप्त स्टाक का संचलन नहीं किया जा सका क्योंकि परिवहन ठेका बेस डिपुओं से स्टाक उठाने में असफल रहा था।

(ग) जी, नहीं। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 21.6.1997 को पंतनगर दौरे के दौरान मात्र इतना कहा था कि राज्य सरकार को पेश आ रही कठिनाइयों पर ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Import of Wheat of Inferior Quality

486. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the wheat imported in 1997, quantity thereof, the amount spent thereon, the country from which it was imported and the time when it reached India;

(b) how much of the quantity was found inferior;

(c) whether the cargo was inspected before loading and if so, by whom; and

(d) what steps have been taken to meet the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS PRASAD SINGH): (a) The details of wheat imported during 1997 are as under:—

Country	Qty. (Lakh MT)	Value (C&F) (Rs. crores, prov.)
Australia	13.90	856
Canada	2.66	179
Argentina	0.95	59
	17.51	1094

The entire contracted quantity of 17.51 lakh MT has arrived at Indian Ports by May, 1997.

(b) The imported wheat conforms to the quality requirements under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and is fit for human consumption. However, the damaged grains content in the wheat imported from Argentina is slightly above the contractual specifications.

(c) In the case of Australian and Canadian shipments, the cargo was inspected and certified by the respective Government agencies. In case of Argentina, quality inspection was carried out by Internationally recognised Quality Surveyors.

(d) No losses have been reported so far.

Tribal Villages Covered by PDS in Karnataka

487. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the villages inhabited by tribals in Karnataka have been covered by Public Distribution System (PDS) as on 30th June, 1997;

(b) if not, the number of villages which are without this facility; and

(c) the time by when these will be covered;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central Government and the State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government procures and distributes the essential commodities in bulk to States/UTs. State Governments are responsible for implementing the PDS. Government of Karnataka have informed that families Below Poverty Line (BPL) have been identified in the State including tribal areas and necessary arrangements have been made for implementing the Targeted PDS in the State w.e.f. 1st June, 1997.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rice Procurement Target and Liberalisation of Rice Imports

488. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1996-97 rice procurement target is not likely to be met and Government have decided to liberalise rice imports;

(b) if so, the extent to which rice procurement is likely to fall short of 1996-97 target and the reasons for decline in the rice production;

(c) the estimated quantity of rice to be imported; and

(d) what is the likely impact on the domestic price of commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The procurement of paddy under price support scheme is totally voluntary in nature, as only the paddy offered by the farmers can be procured. Similarly, the collection of rice under levy scheme also depends on the purchase of paddy made by the